FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE GROUND SCAR WITH TRENCHES AT LITTLEBRANT DRIVE, PARCEL 154(7) FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

JANUARY 2002
REVISION 1

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(7), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation completed at the Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(7), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

The Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 154(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 154(7) is available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) (Public Law 102-426) requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 154(7)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, ***Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2002, ***Final Site Investigation Report, Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama, Revision 1,*** January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000, ***Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, July.

QST Environmental, Inc., 1998, ***Final Site Investigation Work Plan, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***; March.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, ***Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, July.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2000, ***Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories***, Office of Water, Washington D.C., EPA 822-B-00-001, Summer.

Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(7), is located in a wooded area immediately south of Littlebrant Drive in the west-central portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). The parcel is a roughly rectangular area occupying approximately 4 acres. The ground scar was identified on aerial photographs taken in 1961 and 1964. Eleven pairs of trenches were observed at the site in 1998. The pairs of trenches were arranged end-to-end with a path between them. Each trench was uniformly shaped and measured approximately 3 feet wide by 12 feet long by 1 foot deep. Two 55-gallon drums, standing upright and partially buried, were located within the trench area. One drum was equipped with an upright pipe that would discharge liquid into the other drum. It was speculated that this was the site of a trench warfare training area (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). A concrete slab is located approximately 80 feet west of the trenches and about 50 feet east of Littlebrant Drive. No other information regarding operations at this site was available (ESE, 1998).

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (ESE, 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Parcel 154(7) was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or that require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES FOR FORT McCLELLAN

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library
Reference Section
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison
Telephone: (256) 237-8501
Fax: (256) 238-0474
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library
9th Floor
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 154(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

SITE INVESTIGATION

IT Corporation (IT) completed a site investigation at the Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(7), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 2002). As part of the investigation, IT incorporated data previously collected at the site by QST Environmental, Inc.

The site investigation consisted of the sampling and analysis of nine surface soil samples and seven subsurface soil samples. Four of the soil samples were collected from test pits that were excavated in the area of the trenches. In addition, four permanent monitoring wells were installed, and a groundwater sample was collected from each of the wells. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides/herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), and explosives compounds. In addition, two subsurface soil samples were analyzed for total organic carbon.

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with site investigations being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science

Applications International Corporation, 1998), and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs in surface soils were compared to PAH background values (IT, 2000). In addition, a streamlined risk assessment (SRA) was performed to further characterize potential human health risk.

Because the site is projected for residential reuse, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for unrestricted land reuse. In soils, with the exception of aluminum and iron in one sample each, the metals that exceeded SSSLs were below their respective background concentrations or within the range of background values. Aluminum and iron are common elements in native soils, and their presence in site soil samples is not believed to be related to historical operations conducted at the site. Therefore, the elevated levels of aluminum and iron were attributed to variations in naturally occurring background levels. VOC, SVOC, and pesticide concentrations in soils were below SSSLs.

In groundwater, several metals were detected in each of the monitoring wells at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background. However, the groundwater samples had high turbidity at the time of sample collection, which has been previously demonstrated in a groundwater resampling study conducted by IT at FTMC to cause elevated metals concentrations.

Additionally, the concentrations of five pesticides exceeded their SSSLs in groundwater. The SRA concluded that the presence of sediments in the groundwater supported the identification of low levels of pesticides in the groundwater. The pesticides have a chemical affinity for soils rich in clay minerals, such as the soils at Parcel 154(7).

One explosives compound (2-amino-4,6-dinitrotoluene or ADNT) was detected in one groundwater sample at a level exceeding its SSSL. However, the SRA concluded that ADNT in groundwater does not pose an adverse human health threat at the detected concentration.

The potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be low. The concentrations of iron, lead, mercury, and selenium exceeded ESVs and the range of background values in a limited number of surface soil samples. The iron and selenium results were attributed to variations in naturally occurring background levels. The lead (300 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) and mercury (0.81 mg/kg) results were determined to be isolated "hot spots" not representative of nominal site-wide levels.

Three VOCs (1,1,1-trichloro-ethane, tetrachloroethene, and trichloroethene) and two pesticides (4,4'-DDE and 4,4'-DDT) exceeded ESVs in surface soils. However, the levels of these chemicals were low and would not be expected to pose a significant threat to ecological receptors. In addition, Parcel 154(7) is projected for residential reuse; viable ecological habitat is not anticipated.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 154(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Furthermore, Parcel 154(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(3) (formerly Parcel 154[7]). The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost:	$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	$0
Present Worth Cost:	$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

DECLARATION

Remedial action is unnecessary at the Ground Scar with Trenches at

Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(3) (formerly Parcel 154[7]). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel or that require land-use control restrictions. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Parcel 154(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Ground Scar with Trenches at Littlebrant Drive, Parcel 154(3) (formerly Parcel 154[7]).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

Mr. Ron Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-3539

E-mail: LevyR@mcclellan-emh2.army.mil

ACRONYMS

ADNT	2-amino-4,6-dinitrotoluene
BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
IT	IT Corporation
SRA	streamlined risk assessment
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

Ellis Pope
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

Date

Reviewed by:

Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approved by:

Glynn D. Ryan
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date